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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1948

PALESTINE ✓

FILE No.1399.....
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68661

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group..... F.O.
Class..... 371
Piece..... 68661

Following document(s)*

~~retained in the Department of origin*~~
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E: 2052 / 1399 / 31
E: 2589 / " "

and closed until..... 1999.....

*delete as necessary

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1948

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2010

25 FEB 1948

Registry Number
22611/1399/31
FROM
J. Higham
No. *80*
Dated *16/21/48/48*
Received in Registry } *20 Feb*
25 Feb

Bypress Campaigns Publicity Aspect.
Examine draft let to press concerned re
publicity aspect of Bypress Campaign. re Japan
and Infants, referred to Political Section of
Bypress Campaign on a whole.
Question whether there is any objection to
publicity re use of the 'Pan' ships by nearest
Agency for clearing Bypress.

Last Paper.
(17/15/48)
25-89

(Minutes.)

References.

News Dept.
Imp. Polin Dept 24/10/45 *JB Feb. 25*

This has already been discussed
with Eastern Dept, and News Dept's
objection to mention of the Pan
ships at this stage has been
sustained.

Rowse
(Preserved)

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9.11.11 2011 705 24/2

JB Mar. 11

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

JGM 12/3

[Signature]
18/2/48

Next Paper.

5714

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Higham

CYPHER
TELEGRAM

No.....

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed:

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
PALESTINE.

Repeated:

GOVERNOR,
CYPRUS.Addressed High Commissioner for
Palestine.Repeated Governor, Cyprus, No.....
" to Commissioner for
Jewish Camps No.....
" UKDEL BRIEF No.....

Infants and orphans from Cyprus.

In view of need for discretion
Public Relations Officers in both
Foreign and Colonial Office will reply
to enquiries by saying that a certain
number of infants and other compassionate
cases have been moved to Palestine for
practical and humanitarian reasons, but
will refuse to give details or to comment
on numbers.

Most of Press enquiries here are
concerned with future of illegal
immigrants in Cyprus as a whole. In
reply to enquiries attention will be drawn
to Mr. Rees-Williams reply in Parliament
on 18th February that negotiations are
proceeding with the United Nations
Commission to arrange the clearance of
the camps before our final withdrawal
from Palestine.

[It can also be revealed that H.M.G.
have informed the Commission that they
/are

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are prepared to release from detention the two PAN ships after the 15th of May on the understanding that they will be operated by the Jewish Agency for the clearance of the camps. J

SECRET.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

4

pw.
E

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

76021/48/48
Cyprus (O.T.T.)

26/6 1999 21
- 1 MAR 1948

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 24th February, 1948. 10.30 AM **INDEXED**

No. 705 Confidential.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine.
Referred " Governor, Cyprus, 12 122 (High
Commissioner for British Colonies, please
pass copy).
" Commissioner for Jordan, 12 122, do. do.
" 1222, New York, 12 122, do. do.

Infants and orphans from Cyprus.

In view of need for closer public relations
between the two countries and the fact that the
to be achieved by saying that a certain number of infants
and other orphans have been sent to Palestine
for medical and humanitarian reasons, it is desired
to give details of the names of the children.

2. In view of the fact that the Government of
Cyprus are prepared to receive the two vessels, the
reply to enquiries attention will be given to
the fact that the Government of Cyprus are proceeding
to arrange the placement of the children in
the country and to make arrangements for their
education and welfare.

3. It is noted that the Government of Cyprus
are prepared to receive the two vessels, the
for which the 15th of March is the date that
they will be operated by the Jordan Agency for the clearance
of the cargo. It is desired that the Government of Cyprus
should be able to answer any questions concerning
the future of these vessels. It is requested
to report to me at any time convenient if necessary to make
any arrangements for these vessels.

Special Agent

Through Office

- Mr. Smith.
- Mr. W. Dennis.
- Mr. Williams.

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*News Dept. agree
Agreed without last para.*

Colonial Office, Feb. 23
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

*Enter
F
5*

My Reference 76021/48/48

Your Reference

20th February, 1948.

Confidential

My dear John,

2510

I enclose a draft telegram ^{25 FEB 1948} we propose to send to posts concerned regarding the publicity aspect of the Cyprus camps. I understand that our Press Department have agreed the line with your News Department with the exception of the final paragraph. I hope that you will agree that there is no objection to mentioning the use of the PAN ships; this would be a substantial help to the Governor of Cyprus.

Rennie was enquiring the other day what the publicity line was to be and no doubt he would be glad to see the draft telegram. I told him that on the general question of illegal immigration we should maintain our previous attitude that H.M.G. were determined to control the traffic so long as they remained responsible for the Government of Palestine.

Yours sincerely

John D. Higham

(J.D. Higham)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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E 822

25 MAY 1948

1048

Registry Number | E 822/1399/31
 TELEGRAM FROM Beirut
 (Mr H. Boswall)
 No. 381
 Dated May 24th
 Received in Registry May 25th

Jewish immigration into Haifa area.
 S.S. "Providence" arrived at Beirut with 20 passengers only on May 23rd, having left Marseilles with 950 aboard. Customary call at Alexandria was omitted. Lebanese authorities understand there are 2,000 more Jewish awaiting passage at Marseilles. Although they were allowed to land at Haifa (Bd BMEC 90 C. Palestine)

Last Paper. ~~1048~~
 125774

(Minutes.)

(1) Beirut telegram No 383 of May 24th.
 See E 6779 JB May 26

References.

E 6499/4/31.
 E 6779/8/31.
 5704/4/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Kept on E 6877
 May 25

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

PPM/2/6

18/7/48

Next Paper.

E 6877.

32003 F.O.P.

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AMENDMENT SLIP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

Beirut telegram No. 381 of 24th May to
Foreign Office.

Paragraph 2 line 3:- for "[gps. undec]" read
"by 'Providence'"

E G 622/1399/51

Paragraph 2 line 5:- for "[gps undec. ? there
is no]" read "there is no"

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

26th May, 1948.



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AMENDED COPY

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTIONFROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICEMr. Houstoun Boswall
No. 381

May 24th, 1948.

D. 1.00 p.m. May 24th, 1948.

R. 2.15 p.m. May 24th, 1948.

And also to G.O.C. Palestine.

Repeated to *Damascus, Amman, Bagdad, Jedda, Cairo and*
British Middle East Office.MOST IMMEDIATESECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 381 of
May 24th and G.O.C. Palestine, repeated for information
Damascus, Amman, Bagdad, Jedda, Cairo and British Middle
East Office.

*[London only] Please pass to U.K. G.O.C. Palestine.

[Cairo only] Please pass to British Middle East
Office*

S.S. "Providence" (Messageries maritimes) arrived at
Beirut May 23rd with 20 passengers only. According to
Master the ship left Marseilles with 950 passengers on
board (Lebanese authorities think that there were 1,200)
and proceeded direct to Haifa where passengers were
disembarked. Customary call at Alexandria was omitted.

2. Lebanese authorities understand that there are
2,000 more Jews assembled at Marseilles awaiting passage
[grps. undec.] to Haifa. Lebanese Prime Minister in
drawing my attention to the foregoing reminded me of the
assurance that "[grp. undec. ?there is no] question of
facilities being given for Jewish immigration through
the port of Haifa" contained in your telegram No. 414
to British Middle East Office. That assurance was
conveyed to the Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs
May 18th as reported in my telegram No. 362.

3. What are the facts please and if the passengers
were Jews as the Lebanese authorities understand why
were they allowed to land at Haifa?

4. Will you or G.O.C. Palestine please reply as
soon as possible repeating to Amman where this may be
acted on to-night.

[Copies sent to War Office for transmission
to U.K. G.O.C. Palestine]

SSSSS

1	2	3	4	5	6

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 / 68661

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Cypher/OTP.

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Houstoun Boswall.
No. 381.

D. 1.00 p.m. 24th May 1948.

24th May 1948.

R. 2.15 p.m. 24th May 1948.

AND ALSO TO: G.O.C. Palestine.

Repeated to: [?gps. omitted]
B.M.E.O.

E 3822

MOST IMMEDIATE.

25 MAY 1948

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 381 of 24th May and G.O.C. Palestine, repeated for information of [?gps. omitted] B.M.E.O.

S.S. "Providence" (Messageries maritimes) arrived at Beirut May 23rd with 20 passengers only. According to Master the ship left Marseilles with 950 passengers on board (Lebanese authorities think that there were 1,200) and proceeded direct to Haifa where passengers were disembarked. Customary call at Alexandria was omitted.

2. Lebanese Authorities understand that there are 2,000 more Jews assembled at Marseilles awaiting passage [gps. undec.] to Haifa. Lebanese Prime Minister in drawing my attention to the foregoing reminded me of the assurance that "[gp. undec. ? there is no] question of facilities being given for Jewish immigration through the port of Haifa" contained in your telegram No. 414 to B.M.E.O. That assurance was conveyed to the Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs May 18th as reported in my telegram No. 362.

3. What are the facts please and if the passengers were Jews as the Lebanese authorities understand why were they allowed to land at Haifa?

4. Will you or G.O.C. Palestine please reply as soon as possible repeating to Amman where this may be acted on tonight.

[Note by Communications Department:
Repetition of omitted and undecypherable groups being obtained.]

W:W:W:W

25 MAY 1948

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6822 1399 31 E 10

En Clair

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houstoun Boswall D. 3.56 p.m. 24th May, 1948
No. 385

R. 4.41 p.m. 24th May, 1948

24th May, 1948

MOST IMMEDIATE

My No. 381 24th.

Please pass most immediate to G.O.C. Palestine
as my telegram No. 1.

[Copies of telegram No. 381 from Beirut sent to
War Office for transmission to G.O.C. Palestine].

uuuuu



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E

E 6877

25 MAY 1948

~~1948~~

Registry Number E6877/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM Haifa (Mr Marriott)

No. 41

Dated May 25th

Received in Registry May 25th

Jewish immigration, into Haifa

Addressed to Amman N° 5.

S.S "Providence" arrived at Haifa May 22nd with 920 Jews aboard. They had individual valid passports 80% of which were Hansen documents. Therefore they were admitted. Port of Haifa has consequently been closed for period of withdrawal (Rtd to Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, + e-m-c, Mediterranean)

Last Paper.

E6822

References.

(Minutes.)

See E6779 & minute

JB May 26

See within:

Compal Telegram 250340 - 25/5

JB June 3

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Maj. Hank (M.D. 4) (Spec. Mes) (with E6822) May 25

(Action completed.)

(Index)

pp
E6877/6

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 6960

52008 F.O.P.

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Marriott
No. 41

D. 8.40 am. 25th May, 1948.
R. 9.10 am. 25th May, 1948.
(via Admiralty)

25th May, 1948.

Repeated to Beirut
Damascus
Cairo
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

E 0877
25 MAY 1948

MOST IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 41 of 25th May, repeated to Beirut, Damascus, Cairo and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

Following sent to Amman, My No. 5.

[Begins]

S.S. Providence arrived Haifa a.m. 22nd May, having on board 920 Jewish Immigrants ex Marseilles. These were furnished with individual valid passports 80 per cent of which Nansen document. Papers proof against Port Control and there being no known specific embargo against passengers of this character they were permitted entry. This constituting entry of personnel of Military age under cover of British protection, Port of Haifa has in consequence been closed for period of withdrawal to all incoming passengers other than Government and service personnel and selected persons.

[Ends]

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut, Damascus and Cairo as my telegrams No. 5.

[Repeated Most Immediate to Beirut, Damascus and Cairo]

666

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SECRET

IN

pw

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(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad : " O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

250340D/May

From Compal.

Date 25.5.48

QAZXBCNM

6867 1399 31.

Recd. 0148

SECRETEX

To Admiralty.
Info. C. in C. Med.

MOST IMMEDIATE

For Prodrôme, from Marriott, No. 41.

Please repeat to Beirut as my No. 3 Damascus, No 3 Cairo, No. 3 following sent to Amman, my No. 5 begins:-

s.s. PROVIDENCE arrived Haifa A.M. 22nd May, having on board 920 Jewish Immigrants ex Marseilles. These were furnished with individual valid passports 80 per cent of which Nansen document. Papers proof against Port Control and there being no known specific embargo against passengers of this character they were permitted entry. This constituting entry of personnel of Military age under cover of British protection, Port of Haifa has in consequence been closed for period of withdrawal to all incoming passengers other than Government and service personnel and selected persons. Ends.

250340D

Advance copies sent to D.C., R.C.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- U.S.S.
- O.D.(8)
- D.C.(2)
- M.(25)
- D.N.I.(5)
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)
- C.N.I. (2)
- R.C.

OPEN TO ENTRY
PASSING

AMH/27

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E. 6980

27 MAY 1948

14

Registry Number E6980/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM Sir A. Kirkbride AMMAN

No. 392 CONFIDENTIAL

Dated May 25, 1948

Received in Registry May 27, 1948

Jewish immigration into Haifa area.

Azzam Pasha has protested in the case of the s.s. "Providence" over the apparent violation of the undertaking given not to permit immigration through Haifa while British troops were in control.

Reference : Beirut telegram 381 of May 24 (E6822/1399/31)

Last Paper.

E 6877.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Major bank (no. main) 27 May

(Action completed.)

ed 1/6

(Index)

~~19/5/48~~

Next Paper.

E 7027

(Minutes.)

Our explanation, for what is wrong, has now gone to Arab posts

JB May 28

JAG 28.5

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir A. Kirkbride
No: 592

D.9.10.p.m.25th May 1948

25th May 1948

R.11.20.p.m.25th May 1948

Repeated to Beirut

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No:592
of 25th May repeated for information to Beirut.

Palestine.

Beirut telegram No: 381 ^E to you about
S.S. Providence.

Azzan Pasha has asked me to convey to you
a protest against this apparent violation of the
undertaking given not to permit immigration
through Haifa while British troops are in control.

X:X:X:



E. 6980

27 MAY 1948

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E 7027

16

1948

PALESTINE

27 MAY 1948

Registry Number E7027/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr Houston Boswall BEIRUT

No. 388 SECRET

Dated May 25, 1948

Received in Registry May 27, 1948

Jewish immigration into Haifa : s.s. Providence

Refers to Haifa telegram 41 of May 25 (E6877/1399/31)

In view of the assurance given it is most regrettable and has had a deplorable effect. Hopes that the G.O.C. shall not be allowed on purely military grounds to undo the marked good which has been achieved by H.M. Government's policy.

Last Paper.

E6980

References.

6499/4/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

91 Major Leach (no) May 27 (Copies E6980)

(Action completed.)

28/1

(Index)

14/7/48

Next Paper.

E7101

(Minutes.)

We shall await a report from the WO.

18 May 28

~~See within~~

~~In case meet telegram to the office 18556/4/0/6 24/5~~

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M. Beith

*Eastern Dept.
Would you please submit a 17
note to the S/S explaining
the background of this incident.*

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]. *Cypher* 28.5.

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houston Boswall

No.388

25th May, 1948

D. 9.56 a.m. 26th May, 1948

R. 1.10 p.m. 26th May, 1948

Repeated to Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Jedda, Bagdad, B.M.E.O.

SECRET
LIGHT

Amman
Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.388 May 25th,
repeated for information to Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Jedda,
Bagdad, B.M.E.O.

Haifa telegram No.41 to you: Steamship Providence.

In view of the assurance given this is most regrettable and has had a deplorable effect here.

2. Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me by telephone if I had had any confirmation from Haifa and I could only admit the facts. When I told him that the Port of Haifa would now be closed for the period of withdrawal to all incoming passengers with exceptions specified, he said that he proposed to publish that. I have since heard closure has been announced by B.B.C.

3. As this is not the first time that military considerations appear to have over ridden policy (I have in mind especially the surprisingly sudden withdrawal at Haifa) may I respectfully express the hope that the G.O.C., whose heavy responsibilities I can fully appreciate, shall not be allowed on purely military grounds to undo the very marked good which has been achieved by your policy.

k k k

*Look into this
& give me report 1/10*

*Look into this and
give me a report.*

EB

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Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houstoun Boswall

No. 588

25th May, 1948

D. 9.56 a.m. 26th May, 1948

R. 1.10 p.m. 26th May, 1948

Repeated to Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Jeddah, Bagdad,

B.M.E.O.

SECRET
LIGHT

E 7027

Addressed to Foreign Office tele. No. 588 May 25th, repeated for information to Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Jeddah, Bagdad, B.M.E.O.

Haifa telegram No. 41 to you: Steamship Providence.

In view of the assurance given this is most regrettable and has had a deplorable effect here.

2. Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me by telephone if I had had any confirmation from Haifa and I could only admit the facts. When I told him that the Port of Haifa would now be closed for the period of withdrawal to all incoming passengers with exceptions specified, he said that he proposed to publish that. I have since heard closure has been announced by B.M.E.O.

3. As this is not the first time that military considerations appear to have over ridden policy (I have in mind especially the surprisingly sudden withdrawal at Haifa) may I respectfully express the hope that the G.O.C., whose heavy responsibilities I can fully appreciate, shall not be allowed on purely military grounds to undo the very marked good which has been achieved by your policy.

k k k

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Jewish immigration into Palestine through Haifa.

In reply to an enquiry from Azzam Pasha, we informed him through the British Middle East Office in a telegram dated May 6 (E5136/4/31) that the port of Haifa would be fully occupied by the process of withdrawal as long as we were there and that there was no question of facilities being given for Jewish immigration through it for practical reasons. This telegram was drafted in the Foreign Office in the light of repeated statements by War Office representatives at inter-departmental meetings to the effect that Jewish immigrants should not be allowed to impede military withdrawal by using the port of Haifa. A copy of the draft telegram to the British Middle East Office (No. 414) was sent to the War Office for concurrence and was duly agreed by them before dispatch.

It seems that there was some misunderstanding between the War Office and the G.O.C. Palestine, because out of a clear sky we later received notice that 920 Jews had been allowed to land at Haifa by the G.O.C. on May 22. The G.O.C. then apparently realised his mistake and hurriedly closed the port for the period of withdrawal to all incoming passengers other than Government and Service personnel and selected persons.

The War Office have expressed regret for this lapse and have telegraphed for a report from the G.O.C. which has not yet been received. Meanwhile we have telegraphed to Arab posts that -

(a) The G.O.C. has now issued a decision that Haifa cannot be used for other than official passenger traffic during the withdrawal.

(b) The G.O.C. has been requested to do all he can to prevent Jewish immigration into any part of his withdrawal/

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withdrawal area and in any case to see that no immigration takes place through the port of Haifa.

(c) A report has been called for on the disembarkation of the 920 Jews at Haifa.

M. S. Benit

31st May 1948.

(BEIT #)

[Handwritten signature]

16

Midnight

1.5

Private Secretary

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

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11

1948

E

E. 7102
28 MAY 1948

20

PALESTINE

Registry Number E7101/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM B. H. G. CAIRO

No. 177

Dated May 27, 1948

Received in Registry May 28, 1948

Jewish immigration in the Haifa area.

Refers to Haifa telegram 41 of May 25 (E6877/1399/31)

As it is public knowledge that immigrants have entered Palestine through Haifa since May 15, suggests that it would be desirable to make known publicly what the real position is.

Last Paper.

E7027

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

3 Mag. ~~Hand~~ (W.O.)
May 28

(Action completed.)

9/2/48

(Ink.)

18/7/48

Next Paper.

E7571

(Minutes.)

The C.O.C. has made a statement

JB Innet

See within:-

Tel from Paris (Sir G. Harvey) No 768 - 2/6/48.

JB Innet

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

21

FROM CAIRO (B.M.E.O.) TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 177

D. 7.45 a.m. 28th May, 1948.

27th May, 1948.

R. 9.23 a.m. 28th May, 1948.

Repeated to Bagdad
 Amman
 Damascus
 Beirut
 Jedda
 Jerusalem
 New York U.K. Del.
 Washington

E 7101
28 MAY 1948

IMMEDIATE
RESTRICTED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 177 May 27th
repeated for information to Bagdad, Amman, Damascus,
Beirut, Jedda, Jerusalem, U.K. Del. New York, Washington.

Haifa telegram No. 41.

Palestine.

Press announced last night British authorities had closed Haifa port to incoming passenger traffic. This morning the press reports denial by Foreign Office spokesman that any order had been sent to the British Command in Palestine to deny the port to the Jewish immigrants and ships.

2. In view of your telegram No. 414, the contents of which have been passed on to the Arabs, I suggest it might be desirable to let it be known publicly what, in fact, the real position is. It is public knowledge that immigrants have in fact entered Palestine through Haifa since May 15th. As you are aware the whole issue of Haifa is a sore spot with the Arabs.

Foreign Office please pass to Jedda, U.K. Del. New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. [gp.undec.70], 41 and 39 respectively.

[Repeated to Jedda. U.K. Del. New York and Washington.]

///



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E

E 7571

23

1948

PALESTINE

7 JUN 1948

Registry Number E7571/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir R. Campbell CAIRO

No.

785

Dated

4 Jun 48

Received in Registry

7 Jun 48

Disembarking at Haifa of Jewish personnel and stores from S.S. "Providence" and "Senia".

Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has evidence of Jewish personnel and stores being allowed to brought ashore at Haifa. Egyptian Prime Minister asks for explanation since Haifa is supposed to be still under British Control.

Asks for instructions as to how reply should be framed.

Last Paper.

7101

(Minutes.)

References.

This paper has been held up pending investigation of the matter by the War Office. The results of this investigation are being submitted separately in a note but it may be stated briefly here that there were two cases of Jewish immigration into Haifa during the first few days after the termination of the Mandate, - the "Providence" with about 900 and another ship with about 200.

(Print.)

2. As has been pointed out elsewhere the fault lies in the liaison between the G.O.C. and the War Office. The War Office were confident that he was taking measures to prevent any Jewish immigration into Haifa port. I do not think there is any use in pretending that this has been anything but an error and I submit a telegram expressing regret.

(How disposed of.)

6) Palestine dist June.

apt. Mr. Leak. W.O.

June 14

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. Beith.
11th June, 1948.

Since this telegram was minuted we have had another telegram on the same subject from the British Middle East Office conveying a complaint from Azzam Pasha. As we now have a number of enquiries from Middle East posts about this incident it seemed best to await the report promised by the War Office and put the whole thing up then to the Secretary of State, who has asked for an explanation.

(Action completed.)

16/7

(Index.)

18/7/48

2. The War Office have now found that they have comparatively little information over and above the unsatisfactory telegram in E 7990, and have accordingly proposed to telegraph for more. I have written the attached letter explaining exactly what points we require information on.

Next Paper.

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. Beith.
14th June, 1948.

E7098

32008 F.O.P.

B.W. June 19

BRIS

15.6 See Now E 8216. F. 22vi

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24

En Clair

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell
No. 785
4th June, 1948.

D. 7.10 p.m. 4th June, 1948.
R. 8.50 p.m. 4th June, 1948.

Repeated to Haifa
Jerusalem
Beirut
Bagdad) Saving
Damascus)

E 7571
7 JUN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 785 of June 4th repeated for information to Haifa, Jerusalem, Beirut and Saving to Bagdad and Damascus.

Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have obtained copy of ship's manifest of S.S. "Providence" which sailed from Marseilles on May 15th for Haifa where she disembarked 581 men, 349 women, and 50 children all Jews, and mostly described on the manifest as Zionists. Large number of men are said to be of military age.

2. Egyptian Prime Minister has personally instructed Ministry to seek urgent explanation from His Majesty's Government of why these Jews were allowed to land at a port supposed to be still under British control. Please telegraph how I should reply.

3. As further evidence of use of Haifa by Jews, Ministry produced letter from Master of Swedish Ship "Sonja" referring to discharge there of cargo destined for Tel el Aviv. They claimed to know that cargo consisted of 900 tons of stores.

Foreign Office please pass Haifa as my telegram No. 1.

[Repeated to Haifa]

F F F F



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COPY.

(E 7571/1399/31)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

25

14th June 1948.

I understood from Southey this morning you had found on investigation that there is little more information available in the War Office about the arrival of Jewish immigrants in Haifa immediately after the termination of the mandate. It was agreed that you would have to ask for a further report from the Middle East and I am therefore writing this letter to give you a basis for your telegram of enquiry.

We have had a number of telegrams from our representatives in the Middle East on this subject all of them asking what reply they should return to communications from Arab States or the Arab League. May I draw your attention to the following papers (copies of which are enclosed where available):-

1. Beirut telegram No.430 of June 5th referring to a picture in the "Illustrated London News". This appears to be a different ship from the "Providence". The "Sphere" has a note about an immigrant ship called the "Argentina" which may be the same.
2. Cairo telegram No.785 of June 4th asks for an explanation about the "Providence".
3. British Middle East Office telegram No.196 of June 10th reports the gist of an enquiry by Azzam Pasha also about the "Providence".

I think you will agree that the telegram from the C in C M.E.L.F 78556/G/(O) C does not give a satisfactory or comprehensive explanation of what occurred nor does it go beyond the case of the "Providence".

The Secretary of State has asked the Department for an explanation of what occurred at Haifa and we should like to submit a report as soon as possible. Any report would however have to be based on what you learn from the G.O.C. and should be grateful if you could ask him to send an immediate reply.

Sd J G S Beth

Major H. Leask,
War Office,
W.O.4.

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FO 371 / 68661

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Registry
No.
E 7571/1399/31.

Draft.

J.B.
11/6.

Telegram.

CAIRO
No.

(Date)

Repeat to :-

Saving:

HAIFA
JERUSALEM
BEIRUT
BAGDAD
DAMASCUS

~~For Class~~
~~Codex~~
Cypher.

Distribution :-

DEPARTMENTAL
W.O. agree

J.S. Beirut
June 11

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~~XXXXXX~~
Confidential.
~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXX~~

F. O.,

194

Despatched

M.

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Cairo telegram No.
of June repeated for information
Saving to Haifa, Jerusalem, Beirut,
Bagdad and Damascus.

Your telegram No. 785 [of June 4th:
S.S. "Providence"].

You should reply to the Egyptian
Government by pointing to the measures ~~now~~
taken as reported in my telegram No. 537
to Bagdad. You should add that it is
regretted that ~~in the confusion arising~~
~~from the termination of the Mandate~~ the
necessary measures for the prevention of
Jewish immigration had not been put into
force when the "Providence" arrived.

26

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References:-

FO 371 / 68661

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13

E

27

1948

PALESTINE

E 7098

8 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E7698/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Marriett
No. HAIFA
76

Dated } 7th June
Received } 8th "
in Registry }

Jewish Immigration, S.S. Providence.

Refers Cairo telegram No, 785 dated 4th June (E7571/1399/31) Regarding S.S. Providence, there is nothing to add to Haifa telegram No, 41 (E6877/1399/31) Regarding "SONJA" No war-like stores have been landed in Haifa since May 14th.

Last Paper.

7571

(Minutes.)

JB June 9

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*v. Mj's Leak. W.O. m.04
June 9*

(Action completed.)

9/6

(Index)

[Signature]
18/7/48

Next Paper.

E 7902

S2008 F.O.P.

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28

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FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Marriott. D. 7.05 a.m. 8th June, 1948.
No. 76 R. 11.50 a.m. 8th June, 1948.
7th June, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Please pass to Cairo as my telegram 5.

Your telegram 1 (785 to Foreign Office).
S.S. "Providence". There is nothing to add to
my telegram 5 (41 to Foreign Office).

2. SONJA. No (repeat no) war-like stores
have been landed in Haifa since May 14th.

[Repeated to Cairo]

81 JUN 1948
RECEIVED
MAY 11 1948

E 7698
8 JUN 1948

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E

E 7902

29

1948

PALESTINE

12 JUN 1948

Registry Number E7902/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM B.M.E.O. No. 196

Dated 10th June Received in Registry 12th "

Arrival in Palestine of Jews ex S.S. Providence

Refers Cairo telegram No, 785 dated 4th June (E7571/1399/31) Sets out main points of Memorandum sent by Azzam Pasha on the subject of arrival of Jewish Immigrants ex S.S. Providence. Memo states that discharge of Immigrants and arms was carried with the assistance of a British Officer Text follows by bag.

Last Paper.

E 7698

References.

(Minutes.)

See 7571

JBamer 14

2 p.p. Haifa tel 122 of 20/6

4.14.48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine Dish (w/c E 7501) June 14

(Action completed.)

15. 14/7

(Index)

[Signature]
18/2/49

Next Paper.

E7990

3208 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO

TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 196. D. 10.0.a.m. June 11th, 1948.
June 10th, 1948. R. 1.50.p.m. June 11th, 1948.

Repeated to Beirut.
Damascus,
Bagdad,
Haifa,
Jerusalem.
Amman,)
Jedda,) SAVING.
Cairo,)

E 7902
12 JUN 1948

IMPORTANT.

RESTRICTED.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 196 of June 10th.
repeated for information to Beirut, Damascus, Bagdad, Haifa,
Jerusalem and Saving to Amman, Jedda and Cairo.

Cairo telegram No. 785. E 757/1399 Haifa.

1. Azzam Pasha has sent me a memorandum on the subject of arrival of Jewish immigrants in S.S. Providence.
2. After detailing alleged facts of arrival of ships at Haifa memorandum adds discharge of cargo of arms and immigrants was reported to have been carried out with the assistance of a British officer accompanied by Hagana officers.
3. It goes on to contend that if this is true it constitutes a violation of the neutrality that should be observed by British authorities at the present juncture and states that the British Government had declared they would not allow either arms, provisions, or Jewish immigrants to reach [grps.undec. ? front lines] through the port of Haifa. It concludes by saying that the League of Arab States hopes to be informed of the true facts of the case.
4. Memorandum was accepted without comment and copy is being forwarded to you by bag.
5. Please instruct me as to reply.

Foreign Office please pass Haifa as my telegram No. 1.

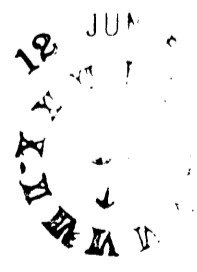
[Repeated to Haifa.]

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REGISTRY

REPETITION OF TELEGRAMS.

33

E 8198/1399/31.

(Date) 22/6

(Despatched) 2.15 p.m.

(1) TELEGRAM SECTION, FOREIGN OFFICE.

Please repeat to the posts shown below telegram No. 112

from/to Haifa dated 18th June

Bagdad ✓ No. 679 (Date) June 22nd

No.

No.

(Signed) E.A. ...

(Dept.) Eastern

(Date) June 22nd

En clair

Code

Cypher

744

(2) DIVISION CONCERNED (FOR ARCHIVES).

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FROM CAIRO B.M.E.O. TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 203 D. 11. 16 a.m. 17th June, 1948.
17th June, 1948. R, 1. 22 p.m. 17th June, 1948.

Repeated to Haifa
Beirut
Damascus
Bagdad
Jerusalem
U.K.Del. New York
Cairo
Amman Saving
Jedda Saving

E 8.90
18 JUN 1948

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 203 of June 17th repeated for information to Haifa, Beirut, Damascus, Bagdad, Jerusalem, U.K.Del. New York, Cairo and saving to Amman, Jedda.

My telegram No. 196 of June 11th: Haifa.

I have received a further memorandum from Arab League stating two vessels one flying Panama flag and the other apparently Polish arrived at Haifa on June 14th. One carried tanks and other guns and ammunition destined for Zionists. Vessels did not enter port but stopped short in an adjoining quay belonging to I.P.C. Memorandum continues that to allow these vessels to enter Haifa and unload their cargoes constitutes a violation of pledges given by British authorities as well as an infringement of Security Councils resolution of May 29th. "Arab League therefore expects British authorities who are still responsible for port of Haifa would prevent these vessels from unloading their cargo and falling of these arms and munitions in hands of Zionists".

2. Please instruct me as to reply. Memorandum does not state whether matter has been reported to Mediator.

Foreign Office pass Haifa immediate and U.K.Del. New York as my telegrams Nos. 2 and 48 respectively.

[Repeated to Haifa and U.K.Del. New York.]

222

18 JUN 1948
RECEIVED
M.A.A.

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Open

CYPHER

35

~~MOST IMMEDIATE~~ Despatched 11:15 P.M.
CONFIDENTIAL

Draft.

Telegram to:—

H.M. Consul General

HAIFA.

No. 138

(Date) June 18

Repeat to:—

B.M.E.O.

646

[Security classification] —if any

Addressed to H.M. Consul General HAIFA.

telegram No. 138 (date) 18 June

repeated for information to B.M.E.O.

B.M.E.O. telegram No. 203 [of June 17th: alleged unloading of arms carrying vessels at Haifa]

I assume that there can be no foundation for the report communicated by the Arab League. Please telegraph most urgently the material for a reply.

Jus Bairis June 17

JB June 17

RECEIVED IN P.P.
18 JUN 1948

~~Enclosure~~

~~Code~~

Cypher.

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12-45

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE *URGENT*

Mr. Marriott, D. 7.02 p.m. 18th June, 1948.
No. 112
18th June, 1948. R. 8.10 p.m. 18th June, 1948.

Repeated to B.M.E.O.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 112 of June 18th, repeated to B.M.E.O.

Your telegram No. 138 of the 18th June.

No truth whatever.

Please repeat B.M.E.O.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O.]



4444

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

En Clair
E.8198/1399/31.

FILES

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BAGDAD

No. 724

D: 11.08 p.m. 2nd July, 1948.

2nd July, 1948.

Your telegram No. 727.

Telegram in question referred to report contained
in Cairo telegram No. 203 of which it was a denial.

@@@

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17

E

41

1948

PALESTINE

E 8216

18 JUN 1948

Registry Number E8216/1399/31

FROM Mr. Troutbeck
No. CAIRO

Dated 12th June
Received 18th "
in Registry

Arrival in Palestine of Jews Ex S.S. Providence.

Refers ~~Cairo~~ telegram No, 196 dated 10th June (E7902/1399/31) Now encloses copy of the memorandum from the Arab League referred to therein regarding the case of the S.S. Providence.

Last Paper

8198

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

16/7

(Index)

18/7/48

Next Paper

8313

(Minutes.)

We have already instituted enquiries & can do nothing until we get an answer to them.

Lawrence
18:vi.

I am reminded of Chatteris that we want a report on this.

10 June 22

47:vi

B.U. 18:vi.

See no. E 8513.

47:24:vi

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42

DES ÉTATS ARABES
SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL

Le Caire, le _____, 194

No. _____

- 2 -

The British Government also undertook to prevent Jewish immigration into Palestine through the port of Haifa:

In bringing the matter to the notice of the British Authorities concerned, the League of Arab States hopes to be informed of the true facts of the case:

Cairo, 7th June, 1948.

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Le Caire, le _____, 194

No. _____

MEMORANDUM

It has come to the knowledge of the League of Arab States that the S/S "Providence" left Marseilles on the 15th of May, 1948, carrying arms and Jewish immigrants for Palestine. The vessel was making for Alexandria, but changed its course in order to escape inspection by the Egyptian Authorities and headed direct for Haifa, where it unloaded the consignment of arms sent to the Zionists and the immigrants it carried on board. This is reported to have been carried out with the assistance of a British officer, accompanied by Haganah officers:

If this information is true, permission by the British Authorities who are now in control of the port of Haifa for the unloading of arms intended for the Zionist terrorist gangs and the disembarkation of immigrants to join the terrorist ranks, would be a violation of the neutrality the British Authorities should observe at this critical juncture:

It will be recalled that the British Government declared that after the termination of the Mandate, they would no longer be responsible for the country except in so far as concerns those regions in which British forces would be at the time of their evacuation. The British Government also declared that they would retain control of Haifa Port for evacuation purposes only, and that they would not allow either arms or provisions to reach the terrorist gangs:

./.:

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BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE,
10 SHARIA TOLUMBAT,
CAIRO.

12th June, 1948

E 3210
18 JUN 1948

Sir,

E 7902
I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 196 of 11th June, 1948 and to forward herewith a copy of the memorandum from the Arab League referred to therein, regarding the case of the S.S. Providence.

I should be grateful for instructions as to whether and how I should answer the memorandum.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect

Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

McDonnell

The Rt. Honourable Ernest Bevin M.P.
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office.

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E

E 8498

45

1948

PALESTINE

23 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E8498/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir. H. Mack
No. BAGDAD
684

Dated 22nd June
Received in Registry 23rd June

Illegal Arms for Palestine.

Refers B.M.E.O. telegram to Foreign Office 203 dated 17th June (E8198/1399/31) Similar protest has been received from the Iraqi Government regarding these two ships which gives further details.

Last Paper.

8513

References.

(Minutes.)

See E8722

JB June 29

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

1) Palestine dist June 24
(1000 5500)

(Action completed.)

12/7

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

8513

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						
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Reference:-
FO 371 / 68661

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E. 46

Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Mack.

No. 684

22nd June, 1948

D. 7.26 a.m. 23rd June, 1948

R. 9.10 a.m. 23rd June, 1948

Repeated to B.M.F.O. Cairo, Haifa, Jerusalem, and
Saving to Beirut, Damascus, U.K.DEL New York,
Amman and Jedda.

E 8498

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

23 JUN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 684 of June
22nd, repeated for information to B.M.F.O. Cairo, Haifa,
Jerusalem and Saving to Beirut, Damascus, U.K.DEL New
York, Amman and Jedda.

B.M.F.O. telegram No. 205 to you.

I have received similar protest from Iraqi Government
which gives further details. Name of Polish ship is
unknown. Ship flying Panamanian flag was named "Atlania"
and left Port De Bouc near Marseilles on the evening of
June 11th, after coming into force of cease fire order
which, memorandum points out, requires all Governments
to respect conditions stipulated by Mediator in accordance
with Security Council's decision. Atlania is alleged
to have carried 950 Jewish immigrants and 200 tons of
arms including machine guns, hand grenades, 4,000 shells
and 12 tons of mortar guns. Polish ship carried armoured
cars and other arms and war materials. Memorandum asks
that enquiries be made as to action taken by British
authorities at Haifa with regard to unloading of the above
cargo and immigrants. Minister for Foreign Affairs
in handing me memorandum said that the matter had not be n
reported to the Mediator.

2. Please instruct me as to reply.

Foreign Office please pass to Haifa as my telegram
No. 4. and saving to U.K.DEL New York as my telegram No.
6 Saving.

[Repeated to Haifa and Saving to U.K.DEL New York].

k k k



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1948

E
PALESTINE

47

Registry Number | E8513/1399/31

FROM WAR OFFICE
(Mr Leask) to Mr Beith

No. BM/2276(MO4)

Dated 23 Jun 48

Received in Registry 23 Jun 48

Jewish immigration into Palestine after Mandate.

Refers to WO telegram 14792(MO4) of 16 Jun (E8513/1399/31).

Encloses two telegrams from C-in-C MELF, stating that there is no truth in report that arms and immigrants were landed from s.s. PROVIDENCE with help of a British Officer. The Jews who did land from this ship were in possession of correctly visaed papers. The circumstances of the 22 immigrants who landed from s.s. CAMPIDOGGIO were the same as those from the PROVIDENCE. Nothing is known of the s.s. ARGENTINE having called at HAIFA and it is suggested that the pictures in the "Sphere" and "Illustrated London News" were of the PROVIDENCE.

Last Paper

8498

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Sgt. B.M.E.O. Cairo.
No. 108

of Cairo No 468
Bagdad. No 178
Amman. No 108
Jorda. No 105
Beirut. No 126
Damascus No 126
Washington. No 959
U.K. Del. No 176
July 6

(Action completed)

8/7

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

E8649

(Minutes.)

See separate minute

JB June 26

In Hq. Was Office letter by 2276 (MO4) (Major Leask - Mr Beith) of 24/6

C-in-C. Melf to, Was Office 83209 G(O)X of 23/6
4. 7. 48

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This matter has probably had most of its interest for the Arabs, who are now worried by our decision to leave Haifa. But I agree that we should give them an answer, by telegram, in the form suggested by Mr Beith.

H. Beeth 26/6

I agree.

L. C. L. Pagan
26/6

Yes. Submit draft

note

27.6

Draft submitted

J. G. Beith

June 29

L. C. L. Pagan
30/6

Initialed by Sir O. Dargent.

603. 27

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51

427349

ONE TIME SYSTEM

Recd 28 May 48.

D.T.O. 281315 B May

From : C in C Molf
To : The War Office

IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET. 78556/G(O)C.

Ref your 13758(MO4) of 25 May.

One.

A. The 920 Jews ex SS Providence were all in possession of correctly visaed and valid papers, and were therefore indistinguishable from bonafide passengers.

B. 80 per cent of passports were of the Nansen type issued to displaced persons by British Authorities in Germany and Italy and by French Authorities in France.

C. As these immigrants held correct papers they were immune from port control. There being at the time no specific embargo except against Cyprus immigrants.

D. GOC British Tps in Palestine has since ordered that until final withdrawal there will be no entry through Haifa Port except for Service and Govt personnel and selected civilians.

E. C in C Med has similarly instructed Compal Message Control.

Distribution by MO4(MO4 for action)

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- VCIGS
- DMO
- DDMO(A)
- MO1,4(8)
- DMI
- DDMI
- MI 3

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Registry
No. **EP513/1399/31**

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

52 4/10
3/12

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

JGSB

Sir,

OUT FILE

~~June~~ 1948.

July

Draft. DESPATCH
No... *108...*

BMEO,
CAIRO.

Copies to:

HM REPS AT:-

CAIRO 467
BAGDAD 178
AMMAN 108
JEDDA 105
BEIRUT 126
DAMASCUS 126
WASHINGTON 959

UK DEL NEW YORK *176*

W.O. agree

*Sir's Beirut
June 29*

H.B. Bailey 30/6

*L.C.L. Pagan
30/6*

with night

1.7
2/7/48

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

440) W.L. 3903/155 100m. 3/48 A.O.S.

With reference to your telegram No. 196 of June 10th and your despatch of June 12th conveying the contents of a memorandum from the Arab League on the subject of Jewish immigration and ~~import~~ *the alleged* of arms into Haifa, I have to inform you that the matter has been investigated and the British authorities on the spot have reported as follows:

2. It is a fact that the s.s. "PROVIDENCE" landed about 920 Jews at Haifa on May 22nd and that the s.s. "CAMPIDOGGIO" landed about 220 Jews on the previous day. Immediately after these cases were reported instructions were sent to the British military authorities in the Middle East to the effect that no immigration should take place through the port of Haifa while British troops were in occupation and that all possible steps should be taken to prevent Jewish immigration into any part of the British withdrawal area.

3. Meanwhile, the General Officer Commanding had issued a decision on his own account that Haifa could not be used for other than official passenger traffic during the withdrawal. No further immigration has taken place through the port of Haifa and the British military authorities have reported that there is no truth in the allegation that arms and immigrants were landed from the s.s. "PROVIDENCE" with the assistance of a British officer.

4. I shall be grateful if you will reply to the memorandum from the Arab League on the lines of the preceding paragraphs. For your information, the disembarkation of passengers from the s.s.

/"PROVIDENCE"

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"PROVIDENCE" and the s.s. "CAMPIDOGGIO" appears to have been due to a misunderstanding. I doubt whether it would be profitable to enter into further details in correspondence with the Arab League but you are authorised, should you think it desirable, to express regret orally, when making this communication, at what occurred.

5. I am sending copies of this despatch to AmRA at Arab posts, and Washington and to Sir A. Cadogan.

B. Pugh

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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from Major H.L.E.C. Leask, DSO, MBE., (MO.4)

WHI 9400 Ext.595.

53

THE WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

8513 / 1379 / 31

24 June 1940

BM/2276(MO.4)

INDEXED

Dear John,

Please refer to my letter dated 23rd June.

I have attached a telegram from the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces, which is an amendment to a telegram dated 21st June, of which a copy has been already forwarded to you.

It appears, that owing to a clerical error, it was stated that only twenty-two Jewish illegal immigrants disembarked at HAIFA from the S.S. CAMPIDOGLIO on the 21st May, whereas in reality a total of two hundred and twenty Jewish illegal immigrants landed at HAIFA from this ship.

I very much regret having misinformed you on this point and I hope it has not caused great inconvenience.

*Yours name at all. We got the amendment
Yours ever, in plenty of time. G. J. vii*

Henry Leask.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W. 1.

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E. 8648 56
20 JUN 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number | 28198/1589/51

FROM B.M.E.O. Cairo.
(Mr. Treuback to
Mr. Levin)
No. 8 31/55/12

Dated 17.6.48

Received in Registry 28.6.48

Arrival at Haifa of two ships carrying arms for
the Zionists.

Refers to B.M.E.O. telegram No. 205 of 17 June
(28198/1589/51).

Enclose a copy of the Memorandum sent by the
Arab League regarding the alleged arrival at Haifa
of two ships carrying tanks and arms for the
Zionists.

Copied to H.M. Consul at Haifa.

Last Paper

E 8513

(Minutes.)

JB June 28

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

12/7

(Index)

18/7/48

Next Paper

E 8690

34987

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Le Caire, le June 10th, 1948. 58

MEMORANDUM.

It has come to the knowledge of the League of Arab States that two vessels, one flying the Panama Flag and the other apparently that of Poland, arrived at an early hour in the morning of Monday, the 14th of June, at Haifa. One of the vessels carries tanks and the other guns and ammunition, all destined for the Zionists.

The vessel did not enter the port, it being under British control, but stopped short at the side of an adjoining quay, belonging to the Iraqi Petroleum Company (I.P.C.).

To allow these two vessels to enter the port of Haifa and unload their cargo constitutes a violation of the pledges given by the British Authorities to prevent the utilisation of the port for the admission of Jewish immigrants and arms, as well as an infringement of the resolution passed by the Security Council on the 29th of May, 1948, relating to the Cease-Fire Order in Palestine.

The Arab League, therefore, expects that the British Authorities who are still responsible for the Port of Haifa would prevent these vessels from unloading their cargo and the falling of these arms and munitions in the hands of the Zionists.

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59

8650

1948

PALESTINE

JUN 1948

Registry Number | E8698/1898/51

TELEGRAM FROM
B.N.E.O. CAIRO.
No. 211

Dated 25 Jun 48

Received in Registry 28 Jun 48

Summary of Arab League Informal 1948 Peace Conference in London, 1948. That League and Foreign Office had agreed in 1948.

203
Refers to B.N.E.O. telegram of 17 Jun 48 (E8198/1898/51).

Last Paper.

E8649.

(Minutes.)

See now E. 8722.

References.

773 20/1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine dist Jun 29
(410E2705)

(Action completed.)

12/9

(Index)

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Next Paper.

E 8722

32003 F.O.P.

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1948

PALESTINE

E 8.22

28 JUN 1948

Registry Number E8722/1599/51

TELEGRAM FROM

HAIFA (Mr Marriott) No. 135

Dated 26 Jun 48

Received in Registry 28 Jun 48

Carriage of Illegal Arms to Palestine - s.s. "Atlantia"

Refer to Bagdad telegram 684 of 22 Jun 48, repeated to Haifa as Bagdad telegram to Haifa No.4 and Foreign Office telegram to Haifa 167 (E8498/1599/51)

Ship called "Atlantia" in Bagdad telegram 684 appears to be "Altalena", which did not come near Haifa but was involved in battle between Haganah and Irgun Zvai Lenni.

Naval authorities have wasted much time in enquiring into similar unfounded reports from Arabs.

Last Paper.

E 8690

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Palentine chat June 29 (u/c E 8702)

(Minutes.)

This story has now been cleared up, for everyone now knows that the ALTALENA did not unload arms at HAIFA, but tried to unload them at TEL AVIV. B.M.E.O. who received the original complaint from the Arab League have already told them it was all nonsense (E. 8690). Bagdad received a similar complaint from the Iraqis (E 8698) & although our Tel: to Haifa 138 to HAIFA asking if there was any truth in the story & HAIFA's denial HAIFA Tel: No 112 was not repeated to BAGDAD. I think they will assume from Para 2 inside that the Iraqi complaint was without substance. ? X.

James Patrick 28:vi

Dr. Dennis

June 29

J.B. 2/7

See within Amendment to Kenya tel 135 of 20/6

47. 12: vii

(Action completed.)

12/7

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 8938

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CYPHER/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Marriott.
No. 135.

D: 4.13 p.m. 26th June, 1948.

26th June, 1948.

R: 8.15 p.m. 26th June, 1948.

Repeated to: Bagdad,
B.M.E.O. (Cairo),
Jerusalem,
Beirut Saving,
Damascus Saving,
Amman Saving,
Jedda Saving.

E 8722

(28 JUN 1948)

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 135 of June 26th repeated Bagdad, B.M.E.O. (Cairo) and Jerusalem and Saving to Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Jedda.

Your telegram No. 167. E 8492/134

Bagdad telegram No. 684. Ship therein called *Atlania* appears to be *Altalena* which did not (repeat not) come near Haifa but [? grps. contd.] battle between Hagana and I.Z.L. and crisis in "Government state of Israel".

2. Naval authorities have wasted much time in enquiring into similar unfounded reports from Arab sources.

Foreign Office repeat Bagdad, B.M.E.O., Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 8, 7 and 15 respectively.

[Repeated to Bagdad, B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem]

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28 JUN 1948
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E

64

1948

PALESTINE

E 8938

3 JUL 1948

Registry Number | E7902/1599/31.

TELEGRAM FROM
British Middle East
Office, CAIRO,
No. 219

Confidential
dated 30.6.48

Received
in Registry | 3.7.48

Discharge of Immigrants and Arms ex a.o. 'EGYPTIAN'
ASSISTED BY A BRITISH OFFICER

Refers BMEO telegram to Foreign Office No. 196 of
10th June (E7902/1599/31).
Proposes to answer Arab League's allegation by
conveying to them denial contained in Haifa
telegram No. 122 to Foreign Office (E7902/1599/31).

Repeated to Haifa.

Last Paper.

E 8722.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

of Palestine Dist.

July

but see BMEO memo 757
July 9.

of Palestine Dist. July.

(Action completed.)

MS 147

(Index)

MS 147

Next Paper.

E 8940.

(Minutes.)

Reply required

J. D. Balfour
2/2

MS 147

Tel. to BMEO

JB July 9

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Registry
No. E 8938/1399/31

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Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft. Tel.

BMEO
✓ 757
July 9
en class
files

RECEIVED IN G.B.
13 JUL 1948

2 P 7

OUT FILE

11:10

66

✓ 0246/10¹³

~~SECRET~~

Your tel. no. 219 [of
June 30 : "Providence"
case]

Await instructions
by bag

JB July 9

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OUT FILE

**En Clair
E 8938/1399/31**

FILES

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

(To British Middle East Office Cairo)

No. 757.

D. 2.16.p.m. 10th July 1948.

9th July 1948.

**Your telegram No. 219 [of June 30th:
"Providence" case]**

Await instructions by bag.

.....

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E

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1948

PALESTINE

F 8940

3 JUL 1948

Registry Number | E8940/1399/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Greenway, PANAMA.

No. 72

Dated 30.6.48

Received in Registry 3.7.48

Evacuation of Panamanian ships and aircraft
(see also telegram and map of Palestine)

Refer Foreign Office telegram to Cairo No. 1059 (W3017/295/303).

Press in Panama reports that Government has issued a decree restricting ships and planes registered in Panama from carrying arms and men of military age to Palestine.

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation, New York, and Cairo.

Last Paper.

E 8938

References.

(Minutes.)

ms right July 5

273. 7/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8/Palestine Dist.
(NICE 8924) 5 July*

(Action completed.)

165/7

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 9376

10088 4/30 F.O.I.

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Code R

E 8340

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE 3 JUL 1948

Mr. Greenway
No. 72.
June 30th, 1948.

D: 6.12.p.m. June 30th, 1948.
R: 2.6. a.m. July 1st, 1948.

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Cairo.

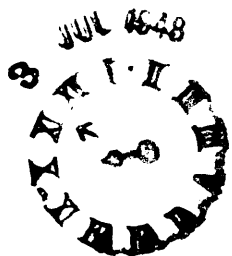
Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 72 of June 30th, repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Cairo.

Foreign Office telegram No. 1059 [sic] to Cairo.

Local press reports Panamanian Government has issued decree forbidding ships and aeroplanes registered in Panama from carrying arms and men of military age to Palestine.

2. Text of decree follows by air mail as soon as available.

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E

E 9376
12 JUL 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E9576/1599/51
TELEGRAM FROM BAGDAD (Sir H Mack).
No. 755
Dated 8 Jul 48
Received in Registry 12 Jul 48

Verification of reports on carriage of illegal arms.
Refers to Haifa telegram 155 (E8722/1599/51).
It is important that unfounded reports on traffic of illegal arms should be denied, despite difficulty of obtaining authentic information under present conditions in Haifa. Haifa telegram under reference does not clarify the case of the Polish ship referred to in Bagdad telegram 684 (E8498/1599/51).

Last Paper.
E 8940

(Minutes.)

Reprinted to HAIFA.

LT.13.vii

References.

B.U. 20.vii

Mr. Marriott has said he knows nothing of the Arab ship. I do not, at this stage, see any point in our pressing him further. *Kenneth Rickell. 22.vii*

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine dist July. 13
(4(C E9305)

If Haifa have anything more to say, they will say it. We have nothing to add to E8722 JB July 22

(Action completed.)

(Index)

12/22/48 *18/2/48*

Next Paper.

E9839

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AT

E

72

1948

PALESTINE

E 9839

21 JUL 1948

Registry Number E8513/1399/31

FROM E.M.P.O. CAIRO (Sir J Footbuck)

No. 31/23/5

Dated 17 Jul 48

Received in Registry 21 Jul 48

Copy of memorandum sent to the Secretary General of the Arab League (dated 16 July) giving full report on the arrival at Haifa of s.s. CAMERON and s.s. CAMPINELLO, and denoting that some 200 immigrants were landed with help of British officers.

Refers to FO despatch 108 (E8513/1399/31).

Copies being sent to H.M. representatives at Arab posts, and to Washington, and to Sir Alexander Cadogan.

Last Paper

E 9376

References

237

(Print)

(How disposed of)

S.W.O. M.O.4
July 27

(Action completed)

9/24/48

(Index)

7/21/48

Next Paper

(Minutes.)

Copy y.o. M.O.4.

4 22: vii

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74
END

MEMORANDUM.

16th July, 1948.

The Head of the British Middle East Office presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the Arab League and has the honour to refer to the latter's memorandum of the 7th June, 1948 on the subject of the arrival at Haifa of the S.S. PROVIDENCE. The facts of the case have now been established and are as follows :

2. On the 22nd May the S.S. Providence landed about 920 Jews at Haifa and on the previous day the S.S. Campidoglio about 220 Jews. Immediately after these cases were reported instructions were sent to the British military authorities in the Middle East to the effect that no immigration should take place through the port of Haifa while British troops were in occupation and that all possible steps should be taken to prevent Jewish immigration into any part of the British withdrawal area.

3. Meanwhile, the General Officer Commanding had issued a decision on his own account that Haifa could not be used for other than official passenger traffic during the withdrawal. No further immigration took place through the port of Haifa up to the time of the withdrawal of British forces and the British military authorities have reported that there is no truth in the allegation that arms and immigrants were landed from the S.S. Providence with the assistance of a British Officer.

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